

RESPONSE

Applicants have amended the claims to withdraw from consideration claims 9 and 21 - 26. Applicants have further amended the claims to clarify the invention.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 – 8, 13 and 21 – 26 under 35 USC §102 as anticipated by Allen (US Patent 5,507,794).

Applicants note that Allen is directed to a wrap having detachable pockets into which heating elements may be removably placed. Applicants by contrast have pockets and thermal agents that are an integral part of the wrap. The pockets are formed by the bonding of two elastic sheets and the thermal agent is contained between the two sheets and prohibited from escaping by the bonds that form the pockets. There are no removable or detachable portions of Applicants' wrap as claimed, while Allen desires just the opposite (col. 2, lines 13 – 16).

Applicants' wrap is clearly different in purpose and construction than that of Allen and Applicants ask the Examiner to reconsider this ground of rejection in light of the amended claims and these remarks.


The Examiner has rejected claim 9 under 35 USC §103 as unpatentable over Allen (US Patent 5,507,794) in view of Horning (US Patent 6,582,383). This claim has been withdrawn.

Applicants request that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn in light of the amendments and remarks above.

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Should the Examiner have any issues he would like to discuss in order to facilitate the progression of this application, he is encouraged to call the undersigned at (770)-587-7273.

Respectfully submitted,



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